State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Karnataka	792.0	964.0	825.0
Madhya Pradesh	3429.2	3232.6	3202.0
Maharastra	1664.0	2005.0	2258.0
Orissa	249.6	336.3	289.0
Punjab	31.7	26.2	30.0
Rajasthan	1337.4	898.1	1258.0
Tamil Nadu	245.6	177.0	246.0
Uttar Pradesh	2375.0	2231.5	2424.0
West Bengal	167.1	174.3	179.0
Others	358.9	398.1	475.0
ALL INDIA:	13129.5	13384.4	14231.0

* IVth advance estimate

Budget provision for foodgrain seeds, oil seed, etc.

†15. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provision for foodgrain seeds, oil seeds, pulses, maize development, crops insurance scheme, land and water conservation in the budget estimates for the year 2007-08 has been fixed less than the budget estimates for the year 2006-07; and

(b) whether this provision would be sufficient to fulfill the shortfall in the production of foodgrains, pulses, oil seeds and their development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Budget estimate of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation was Rs. 4480 crores in 2006-07, which has increased to Rs. 5520 crores in 2007-08. Provision for schemes related to foodgrains, seeds, oilseeds, pulses, maize, land & water conservation have increased. Funds for the crop insurance scheme are the same as last year.

(b) The National Development Council resolution dated the 29th May, 2007 has further identified the need for a scheme for providing Additional Central Assistance to the states for the agriculture sector, as well as for launching a Food Security Mission, covering Rice, Wheat and Pulses. Other schemes are also under way and, should there be any further need for funds, additional funds will be solicited.

Suicides in Vidarbha

†16. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suicides by the farmers in Vidarbha goes unabated;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Prime Minister's package has been implemented; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make the farmers free from debt all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) State Government of Maharashtra has reported reduction in the number of suicide by farmers during 2007 compared to previous year in the Vidarbha region of the State.

(b) The Prime Minister's package is under implementation.

(c) The Government of India constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, to look into the problems of Agricultural Indebtedness in its totality and to suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country. The Expert Group has submitted its report to the Government in July, 2007 and the government has initiated the process of consultation on its recommendations.

Crop loss

17. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimate of the losses caused to crops in the northern region of the country during 2006-07 due to winter heavy rains and hailstorms has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the central assistances, if any, given to States, to compensate the affected farmers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Governments of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh reported damage to crops due to rains and hailstorms during February and March, 2007.

(b) State-wise details of crop area affected, as reported by the States/as per available information, is indicated below:

State	Crop area affected
Haryana	5.78 lakh acres
Madhya Pradesh	1.74 lakh hectares
Punjab	2.15 lakh acres
Rajasthan	2.85 lakh hectares
Uttarakhand	1.54 lakh hectares
Uttar Pradesh	4.12 lakh hectares

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including hailstorm. There is ready